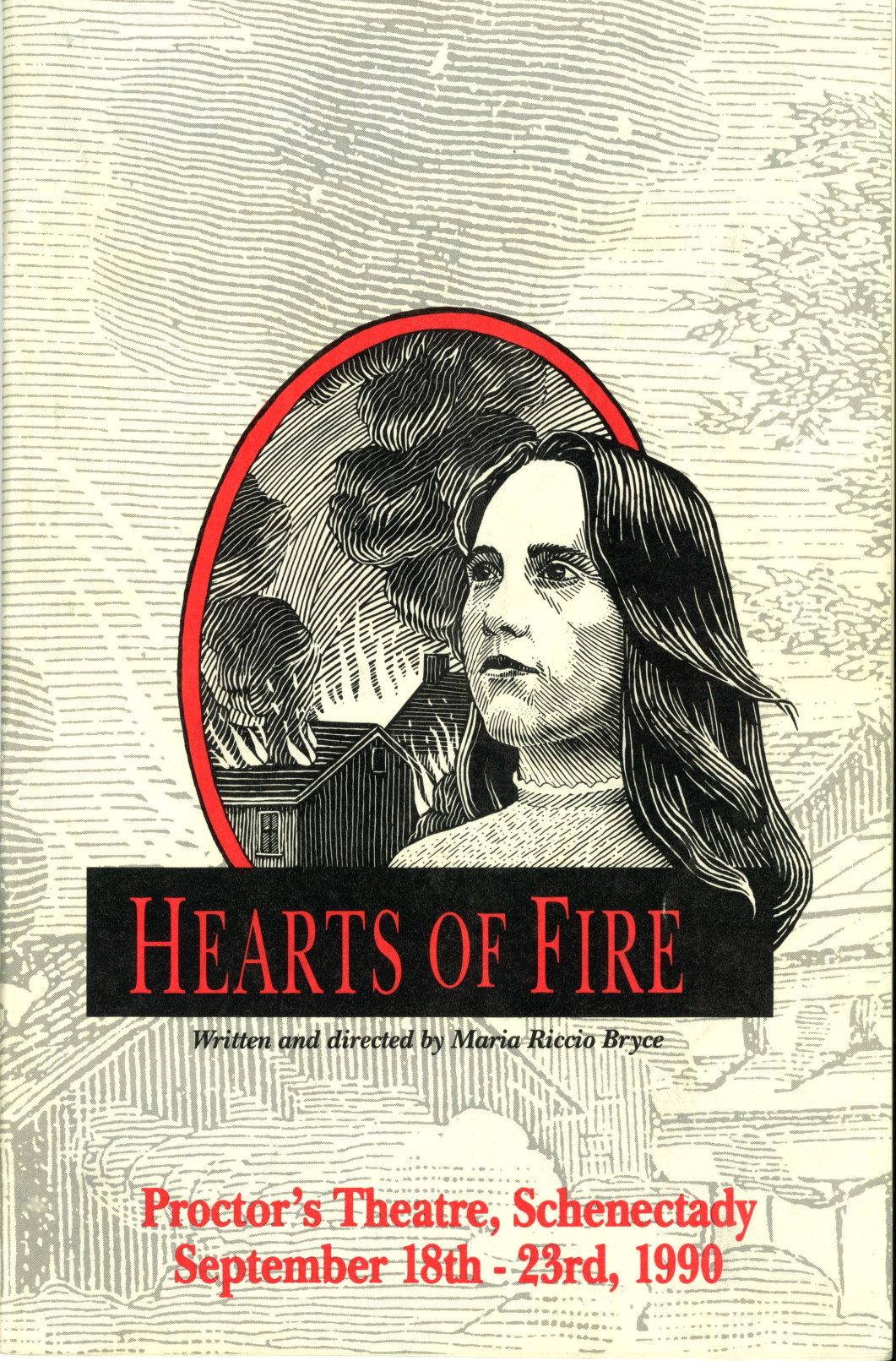

HEARTS OF FIRE
Written and directed by Maria Riccio Bryce
Proctor's Theatre, Schenectady
September 18th - 23rd, 1990

SpectraGraphics
FULL SERVICE COPY • PRINT • GRAPHICS CENTER

Quality and Service on a Full Range of Graphic Services

- **High Speed Copy/Duplication**
- **Desktop Publishing**
- **Full Color Laser Copying**
- **Complete Laminating and Bindery Facilities**

Call or visit the Capital District's most advanced copy and graphics center.

(518) 869-0232

1892 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12205
(The Colonie Plaza)

Alan Bryce

presents

Written and Directed by

MARIA RICCIO BRYCE

with

RICHARD CREAMER **SOPHIE KOZAK**

JOHN ALLEN

Scenic Design by

NORMAN COATES

Lighting Design by

EILEEN V. EGGLESTON

Choreography by

ANGELA HARDCASTLE

Sound Design by

TIM DOAN

Costume Design by

LYNDA SALSBURY

HEARTS OF FIRE – Cast

In Philadelphia

SAMUEL VAN DE BOGART, as old man ..... RICHARD CREAMER*
ARENT, his nephew ..... ANTHONY BERNINI
NURSE ..... MOLLY WRIGHT

In Schenectady

ANNA VAN DE BOGART ..... SOPHIE KOZAK
SAMUEL VAN DE BOGART, as a child ..... ANDREW BRYCE
JAN SPOORS, a widower ..... JOHN ALLEN
ANTJE SPOORS, his daughter, aged 10 ..... MELISSA MARCHITTO
ADAM VROOMAN ..... MATTHEW MOROSS
ENGLE VROOMAN, his wife ..... JUDI MERRIAM
BARENT VROOMAN, their son ..... NOAH FELDMAN
ANNEKE VROOMAN, their daughter ..... SANDRA VIVA
TRUDY VROOMAN, their infant daughter ..... TYLER MERRIAM
ANDRIES ARENTSE BRATT ..... CHRIS FOSTER
MARGARETA BRATT, his wife ..... GAIL GARRISON
HANS BRATT, their son, aged 10 ..... CHRISTIAN LINE
LYSBET BRATT, their daughter ..... LISA BIANCHI
GEETRUY BRATT, their daughter ..... REBECCA KOPEC
JOHANNES POTMAN ..... BRUCE LEVY
SUSANNE POTMAN, his wife ..... CONSTANCE RICCIO
Their Infant Daughter ..... ANGELICA SENDRA
SYMON SCHERMERHORM ..... JOHN BINTZ
JANNETIE SCHERMERHORN ..... TERRIE BROSCH JACKSON
JOHANNES SCHERMERHORN ..... ANTONIO VIVA
DOWE AUKES ..... JOE PHILLIPS
MARIA VIELE AUKES, his wife ..... BARBARA J. HALAS
SARAH AUKES, their daughter ..... SHERRY VERCHERAU
GERRIT AUKES, their son ..... BENJAMIN WILES
DOM PETRUS TESSEMAKER, the minister ..... JAMES E. RIBBANS
DAVID CHRISTOFFLSEN ..... JON SOUTH
JOHANNA CHRISTOFFLSEN, his wife ..... SUSAN VERRASTRO
DIRCK CHRISTOFFLSEN, their son ..... DUNCAN BRYCE
WILLIAM CHRISTOFFLSEN, their son ..... ROBB HARRISON
PIETER CHRISTOFFLSEN, their son ..... PETER BRYCE
CORNELIUS CHRISTOFFLSEN, their son ..... MICHAEL KOZAK
JAN VAN EPPS ..... GORDON O. HAZZARD
CATLYN VAN EPPS, his wife ..... SUSAN CAPUTO
JAN BAPTIST VAN EPPS, their teenage son ..... JAMES CARPINELLO
ISAAK VAN EPPS, their younger son ..... GREGORY VAN ULLEN
PAULYN VAN EPPS, their daughter ..... COURTNEY GILSON
MARIA VAN EPPS, their younger daughter ..... REBEKAH CONNOLLY
SWEER TEUNISE VAN VELSEN ..... BILL GRAY
HILLTJE VAN VELSEN, his wife ..... MARIBEL GRAY

** Richard Creamer appears courtesy of Actors Equity Association and Impulse Theatre & Dance Company*

LAURENCE, the Indian ..... MICHAEL DALE
ALEXANDER GLEN ..... MARK HECKLER

In Montreal

COUNT FRONTENAC, Governor of New France ..... BILL HICKMAN
LEMOYNE DE ST HELENE ..... GARY M. HOFFMAN
DAILLEBOUT DE MANTET Leaders of the Expedition ..... BYRON NILSSON
KRYN, Chief of the Praying Indians ..... JOHN ANTHONY LOPEZ
COWARDLY SOLDIER ..... MARC ASTAFAN
OLD SOLDIER ..... BILL McCOLL
SOLDIER ..... DAN SHEFFER
SOLDIER ..... MATT STECKLER
SOLDIER ..... JASON WILFORE
SOLDIER ..... JOHN McENERNY
SOLDIER ..... AARON WILLIAMS
INDIAN ..... DENNIS McDERMOTT
INDIAN ..... ROBERT HUGHES

DIRECTOR ..... MARIA RICCIO BRYCE
PRODUCER ..... ALAN BRYCE
SCENIC DESIGNER ..... NORMAN COATES
CHOREOGRAPHER ..... ANGELA HARDCASTLE
LIGHTING DESIGNER ..... EILEEN V. EGGLESTON
COSTUME DESIGNER ..... LYNDA SALSBURY
COSTUMES BUILT BY ..... THE COSTUMER
SOUND DESIGNER ..... TIM DOAN
PRODUCTION MANAGER ..... EILEEN V. EGGLESTON
MASTER CARPENTER ..... DAVID YERGAN
FIGHT CONSULTANT ..... RICK BARROWS
CHIEF TECHNICIAN ..... MARC GORSAGE
COMPANY MANAGER ..... CATHY TAYLOR
A.S.M. ..... DIANA CRAMER
PROPERTY MASTER ..... SCOTT PAYNE
ASST. PROPERTY MASTER ..... LISA HAILES
HAIR DESIGN ..... MARK GIANDOMENICO
MAKEUP CONSULTANT ..... CATHERINE QUACKENBUSH
MAKEUP ASSISTANT ..... JENNIFER ZISKIN
MUSICAL DIRECTOR ..... MARIA RICCIO BRYCE
GROUP SALES ..... JEANNE TOTH
ADVERTISING AGENCY ..... MILLER PELTON INC.
LEGAL COUNSEL ..... DONALD FARBER
DUTCH LANGUAGE CONSULTANT ..... ANNEKE BULL
PHOTOGRAPHY ..... THE PHOTOGRAPHERS
REHEARSAL/SHOW PIANIST ..... MALCOLM KOGUT
SYNTHESIZER ..... MARIA RICCIO BRYCE
SYNTHESIZER ..... MARK BROCKLEY
REHEARSAL PIANIST ..... NANCY WALDEN
MUSIC, LYRICS AND MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS ..... MARIA RICCIO BRYCE

HEARTS OF FIRE – SCENES AND MUSIC

ACT ONE

Scene 1 A room in Philadelphia, July 1776
"COME HOME" ..... ANNA

Scene 2 Schenectady, Spring 1689
"MY VALLEY IN SPRING" ..... ADAM, ENGLE, VILLAGERS

Scene 3 By the river
"THE BANKS OF THE MOHAWK" ..... ANNA
"YOU CAN'T FORGET ME" ..... LAURENCE

Scene 4 Philadelphia

Scene 5 Anna's home in Schenectady, then, the village
"LET ME HELP YOU" ..... JAN, ANNA
"GOOD NIGHT" ..... VILLAGERS
"BEATITUDE" ..... VILLAGERS

Scene 6 Philadelphia

Scene 7 An army camp in Montreal
"I THINK I UNDERSTAND" ..... FRONTENAC, DE MANTET, ST. HELENE, KRYN

Scene 8 Schenectady, by the river, and Anna's home
"SUMMER IN MY VALLEY" ..... VILLAGE WOMEN AND CHILDREN
"GOOD NIGHT" (Reprise) ..... VILLAGE WOMEN

Scene 9 Dowe Aukes' Inn
"ALEXANDER GLEN" ..... VILLAGE MEN, ALEXANDER GLEN

Scene 10 Philadelphia

Scene 11 Church
"MY VALLEY IN AUTUMN" ..... MARGARETA BRATT
"THE FRUIT OF OUR LABORS" ..... VILLAGERS
"HARVEST HOME" ..... BARENT AND ADAM VROOMAN, CATLYN AND MARIA VAN EPPS, VILLAGERS

Scene 12 Outside Church
"HEARTS OF FIRE" ..... JAN, VILLAGERS

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

Scene 1 The Village Hall, December 1689
"SINTER CLAES" ..... VILLAGE CHILDREN
"GOOD TIMES, BAD TIMES" ..... DOM PETRUS TESSEMAKER
"CAKE-EATING" ..... MARIA AUKES, MARGARETA, ANDRIES BRATT, SWEER TEUNISE AND HILLTJE VAN VELSEN, OTHER VILLAGERS
"CANDLE DANCE" ..... VILLAGERS
"WINTER IN MY VALLEY" ..... VILLAGERS, JAN

Scene 2 Philadelphia

Scene 3 In the Adirondacks
"SONG OF THE MARCH".....FRENCH SOLDIERS, INDIANS

Scene 4 Johannes Potman's home
"BE NOT AFRAID".....ENGLE, ANNA, SUSANNE, MARGARETA

THE MASSACRE

Scene 5 Philadelphia

Scene 6 Somewhere north of Albany (Fort Orange), February 1690
"CHOOSING THE PATH".....FRONTENAC, KRYN,
DE MANTET, ST. HELENE, SOLDIERS, INDIANS

Scene 7 Schenectady, inside and outside the stockade
"THE FALLING SNOW".....ANNA, SWEER TEUNISE, VILLAGERS
"SNOWMAN".....CHILDREN, MOTHERS, FRENCH SOLDIERS
"GOOD NIGHT" (Reprise).....VILLAGERS
"OUTSIDE THE GATE".....FRONTENAC, DE MANTET,
KRYN, A COWARDLY SOLDIER, AN OLD SOLDIER
"MASSACRE THEME".....ORCHESTRA
"INDIVIDUAL SUFFERING".....THE SCHERMERHORNS,
THE BRATTS, THE VROOMANS,
JAN AND ANTJE SPOORS, LAURENCE, ANNA
"TAKE MY BABY".....SUSANNNE POTMAN, SAMUEL

Scene 8 In the ruins of the village
"DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?".....FRONTENAC,
ALEXANDER GLEN, SOLDIERS, VILLAGERS

Scene 9 A Wooded Glen
"BROTHERS, MY BROTHERS".....LAURENCE, ANNA,
SAMUEL, MARGARETA, LYSBET, GEETRUY,
ADAM, ANNEKE, JANNETIE, CATLYN, DOWE AUKES
"DO YOU REMEMBER?".....ANNA, SURVIVORS
"HERE I STAY".....ANNA, THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

Scene 10 Philadelphia
"COME HOME" (Reprise).....ANNA

Please be aware that stage firearms will be discharged during the performance.

Writing HEARTS OF FIRE

It was in the winter of this year that I wrote *Hearts of Fire.* For hours, days, weeks, I sat at my table, with pencil, paper, my piano at my left, and from my window, I saw the winter. Often I would stare at the bleak landscape, willing it to throw into my mind's eye a vision, a 300-year old memory of something–anyone, anything. It never did–not quite. Instead, I saw myself.

The Mohawk Valley and I go way back. The river was a silent witness to my life. It knew the trusting child, the determined young woman that I was. And when I left it, returning only on visits, blowing in on the wave of my own early, excited success in life–well, I tossed it from my consciousness, as if it had never heard my laughter, my tears, my voice pleading down the years: "Oh, let me live! And *not here*!!" However – as fate would have it – I returned. Reluctantly, bitterly, I came back to the Valley – and felt in its vapor only a quiet breath, a distant echo of what I thought I was.

This winter at my table, looking out of the window, I learned a great many things. I learned that this is my home. I learned that this is the place, for good or ill, that formed me. I learned that I believe in the power of the Mohawk Valley to mold us, form us and cherish us. I grieved for the people who died to create it. I came to understand my own role as their very distant daughter. As my pencil moved to the rhythms and voices in my head, I prayed – let me be worthy of my home.

Towards the end of January, I was ready to show something of what I'd written. My patient family – husband, three sons – gathered round my table expectantly. "I'm going to sing you a song I wrote," said I. And I sang them "Hearts of Fire." The first time this song was sung is the one I will remember most. For, as I warbled along in the voice only those four people could love, I felt the truth of my life finally settle in my soul. I felt my husband recognize a part of me he had never met. And I felt that my sons heard in it their own young song, the theme that beats as they gaze at the valley with their own hearts full of dreams. It is my most earnest hope that you, too, hear it – and recognize yourself in it–and if you do–well, then–the spirit of the people who lived and died to give us this place we now call happily, or bitterly, or serenely, or desperately "Home" still lives–in you.

I have many to thank for helping *Hearts of Fire* come alive. Richard Brown's early assistance convinced me at least to write it. My mother, Alberta Riccio, and my sister, Michela Riccio, were patient backdrops. It was especially meaningful to me to have several special people present–Gail Garrison, Anthony Bernini, Angela Hardcastle, Norman Coates, Chris Foster, Matt Moross, Terri Jackson and Jim Ribbans. My sisters, Connie Riccio and Sophie Kozak, as ever, were beacons of light on many a dark night. John Allen lent untold support to his old friend, and his most special talent to the performance. My brother-in-law, Kevin Kozak, sent his wife up from Alabama so that she could be Anna. Al and Barbara Lawrence proved to me that yes, you DO give back what you receive. George Robertson did all he could. My sons, Duncan, Andrew, and Peter set me free from many baseball games and beach trips so that I could concentrate on my work. My deepest gratitude is to my husband, Alan Bryce. Without his courage and persistence, without his constant badgering and inspiring and helping, I simply could not have done what you see tonight.

And the sum and total of this work, I offer to one person. It is to my father, Peter Riccio, that I dedicate *Heart of Fire.* As Old Samuel says: "Your finest hour can be your last. And your end, another beginning." My father's belief in me has sustained me all my life–and I thank him for showing me his own heart of fire.

Maria Riccio Bryce

A Note From the Producer

Hearts of Fire is the best this community has to offer. Nothing less would do, for our ancestors gave ALL they had to offer–their lives. Throughout the production period we were all keenly aware of the responsibilities we had accepted in undertaking this project. These feelings were particularly acute as we rehearsed at the YWCA–for we stood on the very spot where the people we were bringing back to life had lived and died.

Hearts of Fire is a tribute to those people from the people who now carry their torch–today's Schenectadians. *Hearts of Fire* was written, produced, financed, and performed by people from this community. It is our link with the past, our beacon to the future.

It's not difficult to find other links. You can see a tablet locating the Mill of Sweer Teunise Van Velsen on Mill Lane. At the intersection of Church and Front Streets you can stand where Adam Vrooman defended his house–and where the French and Indians entered the settlement. Dom Petrus' Church was at the intersection of Mill Lane, South Church Street and Water Street. In fact, Anna Van de Bogart's descendants still live in the Schenectady Stockade.

Some things in Anna's life have been changed. She never had a son called Samuel. And we do not know that she wished to return to her native Holland. But we had a story to tell and only so much time to tell it. Where Maria played with history it was only to enable us to more honestly show the spirit and courage of our ancestors. Nonetheless, by far the greater part of *Hearts of Fire* is based on fact: from the Snowman, to the rebellion of the Praying Indians, to Alexander Glen's famous selection of those to be spared and those to be taken prisoner. The deaths of the villagers are portrayed on stage as they took place exactly three hundred years ago. We have omitted some facts: Dom Petrus Tessemaker, the minister, announced his engagement to be married on February 8th, 1690 – the day he was murdered. Laurence, the Indian, was captured. These were deliberate choices and we record here that *Hearts of Fire* could in no way tell ALL.

But *Hearts of Fire* tells enough for us to know our heritage and to be responsive to it. *Hearts of Fire* tells us that a place is but the sum total of its people. The rest is up to us.

Hearts of Fire would not have happened without the foresight, courage, commitment and generosity of Albert Lawrence, the Schenectady Industrial Corporation, Ric le Boeuf, Lionel Barthold, Schenectady County, Dr. and Mrs. Lyle Barlyn, Hans and Kay Rozendaal and Sheldon Dinowitz.

I would also like to thank the following for their help above and beyond the call of duty:

Miller, Pelton & Associates, Inc. (especially)
General Electric
(Tony Casapullo, Joe Conroy, Donna Profeta)
The Times Union — Metroland
The Costumer (Jack and Cathy)
WRGB (David Lynch, Terry Walden, Tom Mailey)
WROW — WABY-David Allen
Cici Hunt — Jackie Mosher
Gloria Lamere — Ginny Baim
Larry Hart — Diane Warner
Darryl Drew — Proctor's Box Office Team
Bobbie Bowden — Mike Iacobucci
Kathy Pucci — Mayor Karen Johnson
The Cranberry Bog
The Carl Company
The Glen Sanders Mansion and
its excellent proprietor, Angelo Mazzone
Irma Hamilton, for continuing belief and
encouragement
The Schenectady YWCA — Ken Nelson
Arthur Glover — Eleanor Koblenz
Jackie Demaline — Jim Elington
Cathedral Sound — SUNY Albany
Proctor's Gift Center — William Bryce
Carol Constantino and the Noteworthy Company
Charlotte Wilcoxen, for her book: *Early Albany History,*
which was enormously helpful
...and all those others who helped...but after
we went to press.

Alan Bryce

The Massacre: Before and After

The story of the Schenectady Massacre of 1690 is one that will continue to enthrall residents of any age as it has down through the centuries. It has all the ingredients of legendary tales of American pioneers—strife, heroism, and persistence—mingled in a life-and-death struggle. The saga unfolds readily today as one strolls along the brick or slate walks of the Stockade and reads the legend embossed on historic markers.

They tell of the story we've all heard since childhood. How a band of 210 Frenchmen and Indians marched for 22 grueling days down from Montreal and attacked the unwary Schenectady outpost just before midnight February 8. That they entered the north gate, guarded only by snowmen, and sacked the village, killing 60 of its inhabitants. We learn that Adam Vrooman's life was spared after he fought courageously but in vain to save his family, and how Symon Schermerhorn, though wounded, managed to escape and ride horseback through snowdrifts to reach Fort Orange (Albany) by early morning to warn of the attack. Further, that the village was soon rebuilt despite this adversity.

Why did it happen? This was the time of a war between France and England, known as the War of the Great Alliance but popularly called King William's War, 1689 to 1697. It was part of the ongoing struggle for control of North America and its resources that would last until the British, victors over the French in 1763, relinquished their richest colony to the American revolutionists 20 years later. The Dutch settlers, still in great prominence in the territory then called New York Province by the ruling British, were caught in the middle of these conflicts and were highly vulnerable to French incursions.

So it was with this attack on the predominantly Dutch-inhabited settlement of Schenectady. The foray was partly one of retaliation against the British and their Indian allies because of a destructive raid made by the Five Nations upon Montreal the previous August. Also, it was the intention of the French in Canada to intimidate and detach the Iroquois from the English by delivering a stunning blow in the capture of both Schenectady and Albany. This, in addition, would give the French control of the navigation of the Hudson, causing irreparable harm to the entire Province of New York.

Why was Schenectady virtually unguarded that fateful night? It was a period when the whole Province was divided by two factions, the Leislerians and the Anti-Leislerians—also called the "short hairs" and the "swallow tails." Jacob Leisler, a deacon of the Dutch Reform Church in New York City, managed a pseudo appointment as governor of the province but was not recognized by the officials in Albany. Most Schenectadians favored Leisler's leadership, not only out of loyalty to Dutch beliefs but because he promised to repeal a recent ban against Schenectady on extended fur trading in the Mohawk Valley. Divided feelings ran so high in Albany and Schenectady as to counteract the sense of self preservation.

Thus, despite warnings from Albany, Schenectadians had no thought or fear of invaders as they went to bed within their stockaded villages with gates open and no guards set. They trusted that Indian friends who had been sent out to Lake George would forewarn them of enemy attack—as improbable as it seemed in the dead of winter.

News of the raid on Schenectady had far-reaching effects, not only within the Province but in all English colonies. It heralded widespread action for unification as colonists began to realize they must band together for protection. Connecticut, Massachusetts Colony, Plymouth, Maryland, and New York all sent delegates to a series of meetings called to set up a mutual aid system. Actually, this was a forerunner of the meeting called the Great Continental Congress held in 1774 in Philadelphia.

Every legendary story has a happy ending, and that of the Schenectady Massacre is no exception. It is well documented that those who survived the attack were reluctant to go back and rebuild, but that it was finally done after a stirring plea by their Indian friends to return to the valley and start over, with their help. The chief of the Onondagas presented the Dutch settlers with six wampum belts at a meeting in Albany. He told them that the enemy would be pleased to see the settlement abandoned; therefore they must stay and rebuild with the aid of their red brothers.

The chief ended his speech with "Brethren, be patient. This evil which has come upon you is a heavy one, but we shall soon have better times. Take courage, courage, courage, with this sixth belt!"

This year, 1990, we celebrate the tricentennial of the Schenectady Massacre not for the deed itself, but for the courage and perseverance of those who caused this city to rise from the ashes and prosper as an industrial center.

– Larry Hart
Schenectady City/
County Historian

The Mohawks

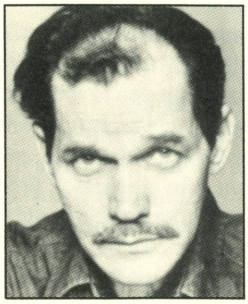
Soon after the massacre, some of the Mohawk Chiefs met with the survivors and promised them aid and protection. One of them said: "BRETHERN: – Wee are sory and Extreamly grieved for ye murther lately Committed by ye French upon our Brethern of Shinnectady wee Esteem this evill as if done to ourselfs being all in one Covenant Chain,

"We lament and Condole the death of so many of our brethern so basely murthered at Shinnectady, we cannot accompt it a great victory for it is done byyway of deceit.

"BRETHERN: – Doe not be discouraged this is butt a beginning of ye Warr. We are strong enough, the whole house have there Eyes upon yrs and they only stay your motion and will be ready to doe wathever shall be resolved upon by our brethern.

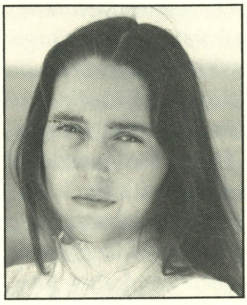
"Wee Recommen ye brethern to keep good watch and if any Enemies came take care ye messengers be more speddily sent to us than lately was done. We would not advise ye brethern quite to desert Shinnectady but to make a fort there. The enemy would be too glorious to see it quite desolate and yr town is not well fortifyed ye stoackades are so short ye Indians can jump over them like a dogg."

THE CAST

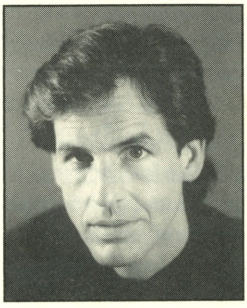


RICHARD CREAMER (Old Samuel) Richard has an earned doctorate having recently completed his dissertation on the great South African playwright, Athol Fugard. A playwright himself, Richard is also a director and will be staging the winning play of Siena College's annual competition at The Egg in February. A 30 year veteran of the stage, Richard has performed extensively in leading roles Off-Broadway and Off-off-Broadway—most notable as Shannon in the award winning *The Interview* by Peter Swet. He has toured widely and performed in regional theatre, summer stock, and on television. His many roles include: Stanley in *A Streetcar Named Desire;* Willis in *Moonchildren;* Harry Brock in *Born Yesterday;* Oliver Mellors in the American premiere of *Lady Chatterley's Lover;* Jeeter in *Tobacco Road;* Uncle Ben in *Death of a Salesman;* Arnold Burns in *A Thousand Clowns;* and Dr. Jim Bayliss in *All My Sons* at Boston's Charles Playhouse. He produced, directed and starred as Judge Pulaski in William Gibson's Anti-nuke play *Handy Dandy, a Comedy but...* As a permanent member of the well-known children's theatre company, Maximillion Productions, he performed in many original musicals and dramas for children. Since moving into the Albany area two years ago, Richard has been teaching acting at both Siena College and SUNY's Columbia-Greene Community College. He is also artistic director of Impulse Theatre and Dance, Inc., a New York City performing company, which he co-founded with his dancer/choreographer wife, Nadia. The Creamers are in the process of relocating Impulse's base of operations upstate. They have temporarily established a school and performing company in Greenville and are currently searching for a permanent space. 797-3684.

SOPHIE KOZAK (Anna Van deBogart) performed, as a child, with her three sisters throughout the Capital District. She also appeared several times at the Spa Music Theatre, most notably playing the title role



in *Oliver!* at the age of 10. In later years she was one of the original cast members, and soloist with, the Parish Mission Team of the Archdiocese of New York. She has performed in clubs and coffee houses throughout the New York and Westchester areas. In London, she performed in her sister's revue, *Your Beautiful Women* and was also assistant director to the late Bernard Goss on the world premier of Royce Ryton's *The Captain* (starring Jane Casson, Sybil Thorndike's granddaughter). She lives in Birmingham, Alabama, where her husband Kevin plays French Horn with the Alabama Symphony, She is the Choir Director and soloist with St. Peter's Church in Birmingham and is the mother of two sons, Michael, 4, and Thomas, 2.



JOHN ALLEN (Jan Spoors) has been involved with theatre since the age of 10, most recently appearing as Lancelot in the Park Playhouse production of *Camelot* in 1989. John has also appeared in *Mother I'm Here* and the Albany Civic Theatre's production of *Fifth of July.* He is particularly proud of his recent work as Elliott in *Private Lives.* He has also performed in several shows for the Schenectady Light Opera Company, including *Oliver* and *Shenandoah* and is equally as comfortable in roles as diverse as Dracula and Thomas Jefferson. John has performed in regional theatre and summer stock throughout the East Coast, including Live at the Lakehouse where he performed in *The Robber Bridegroom* and *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris.*

ANTHONY BERNINI, plucked from obscurity to play Arent, has appeared as Becket in Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral* and as Wasp in Ben Jonson's *Bartholomew Fair,* in amateur productions selectively

viewed and heartily acclaimed. He has never been thrown off stage.

MOLLY WRIGHT (Nurse) has extensive theatre experience and has appeared in many shows. including *My Fair Lady, Annie, Oliver, Hello Dolly, Cinderella, Night Must Fall, The Chalk Garden, the Taming of the Shrew, Major Barbara* , and many, many more. Molly has also appeared in Alan Bryce's Murder Mystery, *The Death of Lucy Goodenough.* She also has costumed about 20 shows including *Amal and the Night Visitors, The Taming of the Shrew,* and *Fiddler on the Roof.*

ANDREW BRYCE (Young Samuel) Andrew is a student at the Lynch Middle School in Amsterdam. An aspiring playwright, he has written *The Together Ranger* and *Behind the Scenes of Great Discoveries,* which was performed at the New York State Museum in 1988 as part of the Imagination Celebration. He played Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* at McNulty School last year and as a member of the MURDER MOST FOUL COMPANY has played a murder suspect addicted to magic and a child possessed by the devil. This summer he played Linus in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* at Union College's Summerskill program.

MELISSA MARCHITTO (Antje Spoors) is 13 years old and is a student at Schalmont Middle School. In 1988 and 1989 Melissa won first place in the vocal competition at Cobleskill Fair. Last year she also won first place in the vocal and drama competition, *Talent America.* She appeared on the 1989 *For Kids' Sake Follies* on Channel 13 and played Raggedy Ann in Proctor's most recent Christmas Show. She has played Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* and Alice in *Alice in Wonderland.* A few months ago she won her black belt in karate.

MATTHEW MOROSS (Adam Vrooman) Matt has appeared in SLOC's acclaimed *Lies and Legends, George M, The Boyfriend,* and *Carousel.* He was co-director of *Cinderella* at Proctor's in 1988. He has also appeared at the Williamstown Theatre Festival, Albany Civic Theatre and RPI. He was in Maria Riccio Bryce's *Mother, I'm Here* at Proctor's in 1988. He is a Board Member and former President of the Schenectady Civic Players for whom he has directed *Royal Gambit* and *Painting Churches.* Matthew is Business Manager for the Troy Music Hall, a lifelong Schenectadian and a 7-year resident of the Stockade, helping keep "the widow" alive.

JUDI MERRIAM (Engle Vrooman) Judi, a singer by profession, has played many roles in area theater, including Rosabella in *The Most Happy Fella,* Nellie Forbush in *South Pacific,* Cassilda in *The Gondoliers,* Edith in *Pirates of Penzance,* Maria in *The Sound of Music,* Marian in *The Music Man,* Josephine in *HMS Pinafore* and Fiona in *Brigadoon*– to name a few. She has directed *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *A Night On Broadway* for the Capital District Hebrew Academy. A graduate of the Crane School of Music, Judi has appeared as a soloist in many area churches. She is mother to 2-year old Tyler and is blessed to have the support and encouragement of her husband, Brian.

NOAH FELDMAN (Barent Vrooman) Noah is a 6th Grader at Central Park Middle School. He has also Attended Schenectady's Open School and the Howe International Middle School. He is in his 4th semester with the SCCC Children's Chorus and is a member of the chorale. In 3rd Grade, Noah played Phillip Schuyler in another play about the Schenectady Massacre. His interests include singing, drawing, reading, writing, tennis and baseball. He lives in Schenectady with his parents, his older sister, and his two younger brothers.

SANDRA VIVA (Anneke Vrooman) Sandra is 12 years old and in the 7th Grade. She made her acting debut in the 4th Grade in *The Frog Prince,* not, she stresses, as the frog, but as the Princess. She played Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* and is a member of the select chorus "Harmonears" at Oneida Middle School. She loves to dance, bake and spend time with friends. Her hobby is collecting Porcelain Dolls (she has 21). She is normally a shy person "but not at all when on stage. I want to be a pediatrician, continue my acting and singing career or become famous helping people all over the world."

CHRIS FOSTER (Andries Bratt) This is the third show Chris has done with Maria Bryce, appearing in her last musical at Proctor's *Mother, I'm Here* and the 1988 Christmas Show. He lives in Albany and works for Albany Educational Television as well as teaching for the NY State Theatre Institute's (formerly ESIPA) Theatre Arts School. He has appeared in plays at ESIPA, Albany Civic Theatre, the Queen's Theatre and the Empire Center. He has also worked in regional theatre in

Pennsylvania, Utah, and his home state of California.

GAIL GARRISON (Margareta Bratt) Gail recently appeared in SLOC's production of *Harry Chapin: Lies and Legends,* which won the Eastern States Amateur Theatre Competition. *Lies and Legends* has been invited to participate in the Costa Brava Theatre Festival in Spain this October. Gail appeared in Maria Riccio Bryce's *Mother, I'm Here* for the YWCA Centennial in 1988. Gail has appeared with Schenectady Light Opera as Abigail Adams in *1776,* Eve in *Applause,* and in *The Sound of Music, Godspell, The 1940's Radio Hour, A Little Night Music* and *Company.*

CHRISTIAN LINE (Hans Bratt) Chris is a 6th grader at the Doane Stuart School and a theatre arts student of the NY State Theatre Institute. He appeared in the title role in ESIPA's *Knockabout Boy,* the 1990 *For Kids' Sake Follies* and as Changlar in *The Secret Friend* part of the Young Writers' Showcase of the 1990 Imagination Celebration.

LISA BIANCHI (Lysbet Bratt) is 12 years old and is in the 7th Grade at Onieda Middle School. She enjoys creative writing and spending time with her friends, although music and acting are her firs loves. She has played the Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz* and Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Capital District Shakespeare Festival. This is Lisa's first major production and she is excited and proud to be a member of the *Hearts of Fire* cast.

REBECCA KOPEC (Geetruy Bratt) Rebecca has been appearing with the Galway Players since she was two years old, most recently as Amaryllis in *The Music Man.* She has won three First Place Awards in *Talent America,* three First Place and one Second Place awards in Regency Competition in Syracuse, NY. Rebecca has appeared in numerous shows for the Elizabeth Bolibaugh Music Studio.

BRUCE J. LEVY (Johannes Potman) Bruce is Director of the Rotterdam Boys Club and is the Founder/Producer of the Boys Club STAGES (Schenectady Teen Acting Guild Etc.) which is a youth theatre/cable TV program. He is performing onstage for the first time since attending college at SUNY, Albany.

CONSTANCE RICCIO (Susanne Potman) is a native of Amsterdam, NY and now lives in Albany where she works for the St. Anne's Institute. Connie performed with her sisters as a child at many venues throughout the Capital District. She appeared in *Your Beautiful Women* at the Overground Theatre in London, where she also acted as stage manager for the musical, *People.* Connie is a member of the MURDER MOST FOUL COMPANY and has appeared as Hallelujah Hamilton — a nervous missionary, Betty Pinchski — a brain-damaged resident of Lake Luzerne and as a vengeful wife, wrongly accused of murder.

JOE PHILLIPS (Dowe Aukes) Joe has appeared in many local college and community productions: Albany Civic Theatre, the RPI Players, the Colonie Acting Troupe, and at Proctor's with SLOC. Professionally, he has performed in Summer Stock and Dinner Theatre in 3 states including the Fort Salem Theatre, Albany's Shakespeare in the Park, and the St. Andrew's Dinner Theatre. Favorite roles include Sancho Panza in *Man of LaMancha* and the Major-General in *Pirates of Penzance.* An Associate Editor with Capital Magazine and a Troy resident, he will direct *Noises Off* for the RPI Players this fall.

BARBARA J. HALAS (Maria Viele Aukes) Barbara is from Connecticut and is currently earning her Masters in Theatre Arts at SUNY Albany. An alumna of the Julliard School of Acting and the University of Bridgeport, she has studied with Morris and Phoebe Carnovsky and with Jeffrey Zeiner in New York. She has appeared in the Albany area as Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream,* Gertrude in *Hamlet,* Isabella in *Measure for Measure* and Jocasta in *Oedipus Rex.*

SHERRY VERCHERAU (Sarah Aukes) Sherry is happy to return to Proctor's, where she previously appeared in the ballet *Aurora's Wedding.* She has performed at the Village Gate in New York City and was a vocalist in the *For Kids Sake Follies* of 1988. She has spent two summers at the MacHaydn Theatre in Chatham. She also appeared at the Starlight Theatre in *Meet Me in St. Louis.*

BENJAMIN WILES (Gerrit Aukes) Benjamin is 9 years old and moved to Schenectady when he was one and a half. He is in the 5th Grade at the Elmer Avenue School. He plays soccer, basketball, tennis and baseball and is in

his second year as a cub scout. Benjamin says he is very excited about *Hearts of Fire* because it is his first performance at Proctor's.

JAMES E. RIBBANS (Dom Petrus) is Minister of the First Reformed Church, Chatham. He studied Drama at USC and received his Masters of Divinity from New Brunswick Theological Seminary. Prior to his entry into the ministry, Jim was an actor: he appeared as Benvolio in the Pilgrimage Theatre's *Romeo and Juliet* and Shylock in *Merchant of Venice;* Seymour in *The Little Shop of Horrors* and Arnold Beckoff in *Torch Song Trilogy* at the Westwood Playhouse. He appeared in *A Matter of Time, Benson and Benson,* and *New Suns, New Seasons* for Hollywood Television Theatre. He has appeared in summer stock in *Hello Dolly, Gypsy and A Little Night Music* and is in the cast of *Lies and Legends* which will visit Spain this fall.

JOHN BINTZ (Symon Schermerhorn) John is an Amsterdam resident and has been involved in many theatre groups. He recently appeared in *Hello Dolly* for the Galway Players and in the Amsterdam Recreation Department's production of *The Music Man.* He notes that this is his first involvement with an original work. He is married to the former Kittie Coffey and they have three beautiful daughters, Briannan, 9, Taryn, 6, and Caitlyn, 3.

TERRIE BROSCH JACKSON (Jannetie Schermerhorn) Terrie has a BS in Music Education from the College of St. Rose and an MS from SUNY, Albany. She is a member of the Mohawk Valley Chorus, where she has also served on the Board. She sang for several years with the Saratoga-Potsdam Chorus in its performances at SPAC with the Philadelphia Orchestra. She has played leading roles for the Amsterdam Recreation Department productions of *Oklahoma, Carousel, Kiss Me Kate, Annie Get Your Gun, Pajama Game, Damn Yankees,* and *The Sound of Music.* She has also appeared with the Adirondack Players—and most recently as Dolly Levi in *Hello Dolly.* Terri is a Music Teacher in the Greater Amsterdam School District and lives in Fultonville with her husband Allen.

ANTONIO VIVA (Johannes Schermerhorn) Tony is a Senior at Linton High School and has been in the School Choir for seven years. He has played Marryin' Sam in *L'il Abner,* Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and a chorus member in *Romeo and Juliet.* He also played Cherdayakov in Neil Simon's *The Good Doctor.* Tony plans to continue his acting and singing in College and hopes to become an attorney.

JON SOUTH (David Christofflsen) Jon is a student at the New York State Theatre Institute, He played Biff in *Death of a Salesman,* Algernon in *The Importance of Being Earnest* and Perchik in *Fiddler on the Roof.* Jon also appeared in the film *Ironweed.* He is employed as a Manager for the General Nutrition Centers.

SUSAN VERRASTRO (Johanna Christofflsen) Susan has appeared in numerous shows throughout the Capital District, including Anita in *West Side Story,* Winnifred in *Once Upon A Mattress,* Ado Annie in *Oklahoma,* Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls,* April in *Company* and Gladys in *The Pajama Game.* As a member of the NEW CANTEEN she opened for Rosemary Clooney at the Starlight Theatre in Latham. She has appeared in many videos for NY State and recently in a National Production for SUNY.

DUNCAN BRYCE (Dirck Christofflsen) Duncan is a 9th Grade Student at Amsterdam High School. A pianist and young composer, he studies composition with Denytro Sivik. He plays Babe Ruth Baseball and last year won the CountDown Round in the MathCounts Competition at Union College. He is a veteran of the MURDER MOST FOUL COMPANY for which he has played a boy genius, a juvenile delinquent and a neurotic Italian pianist. When not playing Nintendo, he is preparing for his debut concert this fall.

ROBB HARRISON (William Christofflsen) Robb is a 7th Grade Student at Galway Central School. recently he played Winthrop in *The Music Man* for the Schuylerville Community Theatre. He played Young Patrick in *Mame* for Schenectady Light Opera and has appeared in several productions for the Galway Players, including *Hello Dolly,* and *Putting It All Together.* He has also acted in *the Little Match Girl* and *The Snow Queen.*

PETER BRYCE (Pieter Christofflsen) Pete is a 3rd Grader at McNulty School in Amsterdam. He is a Mets Fan and plays a mean Right Field for Firefighters. As a member of his father's MURDER MOST FOUL COMPANY he has played a psychic, an orphan and a shrunken head.

He played Tiny Tim in his school's production of *A Christmas Carol* last year.

MICHAEL KOZAK (Cornelius Christofflsen) Mikey is 4 years old and his mom is playing the part of Anna. *Hearts of Fire* marks his stage debut. He likes his aunts and trips to MacDonalds.

GORDON HAZZARD (Jan Van Epps) Gordon is from Amsterdam and attended SUC at Potsdam as a theatre major. He toured New York State with the Auburn Civic Theatre's *Act-Wagon,* a touring children's theater company. Gordon has worked as a singing waiter and will attend SUNY Albany next year to complete a degree in Theatre Arts. Locally, Gordon has appeared in *Hello Dolly* for the Galway Players and in the Amsterdam Memorial Hospital Follies in 1987 and 1989.

SUSAN CAPUTO (Catlyn Van Epps) A Schenectady native, Susan returns to area theatre after spending several years in New York City. She appeared off-off Broadway in *The Big Stretch,* and at various clubs, including DANGERFIELDS. At the Heritage Playhouse in Rhode Island she played Lucy in *Dracula* and Mrs. Forsythe in *Death of a Salesman.* A SUNYA graduate, Susan has appeared locally in *Ah, Wilderness!; Dames at Sea* at SUNY; *Grease, Oklahoma, Baby* and *Godspell* at the Cohoes Music Hall; and *The Free Lance* with the Philadelphia Opera at The Egg. Susan will marry Ralph on September 29th.

JAMES CARPINELLO (Jean Baptist Van Epps) James is a sophomore at the Albany Academy where he has been studying Performing Arts for two years with Jim Ellington. Most recently, James played John the Baptist/Judas in *Godspell.* James took 5 years of tap and jazz dance at the Isabelle School of Dance and six years of piano. he enjoys juggling and unicycling.

GREGORY VAN ULLEN (Isaak Van Epps) Gregory studies acting at ESIPA. He has been a member of the Schenectady County Community College Children's Chorus for the past two years. He studies the violin and enjoys swimming and Nintendo. He is in the 5th Grade at the Elmer Avenue School.

COURTNEY GILSON (Paulyn Van Epps) Courtney is a sophomore at Linton High School. She has appeared in *Annie* at Galway, The Starlight Theatre and the Park Playhouse. She played a munchkin in SLOC's *Wizard of Oz* and believes her most memorable role was as the Narrator in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.* At school she is a member of "The Serenaders" and a 5-year member of the SCCC Children's Chorus. She is very happy to be in the cast of *Hearts of Fire.*

REBEKAH CONNOLLY (Maria Van Epps) Rebekah returns to the Proctor's stage after singing in the 1988 Christmas Show. She appeared in the 1990 *For Kids' Sake Follies* and soccer fans will recognize her as the singer of the National Anthem for the Albany Capitals. Beka is a 7th grader at Bethlehem Middle School and studies dance and piano. She dreams of one day performing on "the other Broadway."

BILL GRAY (Sweer Teunise Van Velsen) Bill was born, raised and attended public school in Rensselaer; served in the USN Seabees 1943-46; Graduated St. Bernadine of Siena College 1950; attended Episcopal Seminary and was ordained in 1954. Bill has served parishes in Massena, Fort Covington, Waddington, Morley, Morristown and was Rector of St. Andrew's Scotia, 1962-1987. Bill has functioned with SLOC, Schenectady Civic Playhouse, Riverview Players, Park Playhouse, Theatrical Services Limited, Village Stage and others, and has appeared in *Cinderella, The Sound of Music, Annie,* and MANY others.

MARIBEL GRAY (Hilltje Van Velsen) This is Maribel's first appearance in area theater; in fact, her first appearance in any production since she was in a one-act play in her junior high school year and three appearances with the Schenectady MelloDears women's barbershop chorus. She lives in East Greenbush with her husband Bill, and works in the Dean's Office for the SUNYA School of Education.

MICHAEL DALE (Laurence, the Indian) Michael also appeared in Marria Riccio Bryce's musical *Mother I'm Here,* which was performed at Proctor's in 1988. He appeared at Proctor's in *Pippin* for the Schenectady Light Opera Company, has appeared on numerous occasions for the MURDER MOST FOUL COMPANY as Winston Znotaleze in *A Spinster in Her Handbag.* Mike, who used to sing with a rock band, now lives with his wife Karen and his family in Troy.

MARK HECKLER (Alexander Glen) Mark is Professor of Fine Arts and Director of Theatre at Siena College. An actor, director and designer, Mark's work has been seen in over 100 productions throughout the U.S., Europe and the Middle East. Mark toured Germany with the USO in 1979 and created the title role in the original production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC. Locally he has appeared in the title role of *Pippin* at Proctor's and as Frederick in *Pirates of Penzance.* He also directed *Joseph...* at 'Live at the Lakehouse.' He is on the Board of Governors of the Association of Theatre in Higher Education – and serves as that organization's Vice-President

BILL HICKMAN (Frontenac) Bill has almost 50 Capital District community and dinner theatre roles to his credit, from Elyot in Noel Coward's *Private Lives* to country bumpkin Tony Lumpkin in *She Stoops to Conquer.* Last year he was Gardner Church in SCP's *Painting Churches* and this year, David Bliss in *Hay Fever.* For Schenectady Light Opera he played Ben Franklin in *1776,* George M. Cohan's father in *George M.* and Floy in *High Button Shoes.* Bill has also appeared in *The Boy Friend, Dames at Sea, The Amorous Flea,* and *Anything Goes.* He currently writes, produces and performs in industrial films, theater and video and frequently appears in local TV and radio commercials.

GARY M. HOFFMANN (St. Helene) Gary started as an offstage voice at the age of 7 in a production of *The Bells are Ringing* in Flushing, NY. He moved to the Capital District in 1987. Over the years he has played The Old Actor in *The Fantasticks,* Mr. Applegate in *Damn Yankees* and Nathan Detroit in *Guys and Dolls.* He has appeared in The Village Stage's versions of *The Pajama Game* and *Don't Drink the Water.* He appeared in SLOC's production of *1776* as John Adams. Gary is an attorney for the State of New York.

BYRON NILSSON (De Mantet) is an actor and writer who champions new works and has been seen in the area in original productions by Leonard Kastle, Ray Bono, and Alan Bryce, as well as work he writes with composer Tom Savoy. He covers the arts for area and national publications. He and his wife Susan live on a Montgomery County farm with an ever-growing menagerie.

JOHN ANTHONY LOPEZ (Kryn) John is a Jr. /Sr. High School Art Teacher in the Middleburgh and Schoharie School Districts. He is a 1988 Graduate of the Crane School of Music, where he studied Voice with Patricia Misslin. While at Crane, he appeared as a soloist with the St. Lawrence University Chorus and Orchestra, as well as performing in numerous musical and operatic productions. Locally, John has appeared with ACT 1, OPERA EXCELSIOR and as a soloist with the Hudson Valley Choral Society.

BILL McCOLL (Old Soldier) Bill is a veteran of over 40 musical theatre productions and has most recently been seen in *La Boheme* at the Glimmerglass Opera, *The Most Happy Fella* for Schenectady Light Opera Company, and the Sergeant of Police in *Pirates of Penzance* for the RPI Players. Bill also sings with the Octavos Singers and the First Reformed Church Choir. He performed the Verdi Requiem with the Utica, Schenectady and Catskill Symphony Orchestras. Bill is an engineer with the NY State Department of Transportation involved in Environmental Impact matters.

MARC ASTAFAN (Cowardly Soldier) Marc holds a B.S. Degree in Music Education from the College of St. Rose. He has appeared with the Lake George Opera, Capital Chamber Artists, Glimmerglass Opera and the Group Opera of New York City. He is a two-time winner of the Mendelssohn Club of Albany Vocal Award and in 1989 won the Schenectady Light Opera Company Musical Theatre Award. Marc teaches vocal music at Germantown Central School and will be vocal director of SLOC's spring 1991 production of *Baby.* He has also worked with Albany Civic Theatre, Watertown Lyric Theatre and Live at the Lakehouse.

DAN SHEFFER (Soldier) Dan is a senior at Linton High School. He appeared in *Oklahoma* and *L'il Abner* while at Oneida Middle School. At Linton, Dan sings in the school choir and the "Serenaders" and "Madrigals" groups. Dan hopes to pursue a career as a singer.

MATT STECKLER (Soldier) Matthew, at age 16, has led a modest, but fecund, life in thc theatre—a career spanning the usual skein of nursery-rhyme blowups, Broadway anticlimaxes and the very

worst in Shakespeare. His greatest one-man-act, he remembers, was issuing the Bron-yr-aur Stomp to a carousel of hopelessly jolly Welsh feast-mongers. Still, he looks forward to that night when he'll get ornery on a Selmer alto with all the deceased jazz giants...and be discovered as an actor who showed up at the wrong gig.

JASON WILFORE (Soldier) Jason began onstage when he was 7, performing in SLOC's *Oliver* and *The Music Man.* He appeared with Schenectady Civic Theatre in *The Man Who Came To Dinner.* At school he played Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* and Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.* Jason plays trumpet for the Linton HS band, likes to ski, play tennis, golf, and bowl. He looks forward to a career in advertising.

JOHN McENERNEY (Soldier) John has been involved with theatre for over seven years, during which time he has appeared in over 20 shows, including *Oklahoma* and *42nd Street.* He was involved with ESIPA's Summerstage program and hopes to perform with them in the future. John also intends to keep theater a strong part of his life.

AARON WILLIAMS (Soldier) Aaron is from Freehold, NY. He last appeared at Proctor's in the 1989 Christmas Show. He was a soloist here in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Requiem.* Aaron has also worked as a soloist for the Woodstock Chamber Orchestra and for Glimmerglass Opera in *Casey At the Bat* and *Gianni Schicchi.* He played the lead role in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* for Orpheus Theatre.

DENNIS McDERMOTT (Indian) A Linton graduate, Dennis has been in choral groups since 4th Grade. He sang with the SCCC Children's Chorus and at Linton he appeared in *Grease* and played Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet.* While at school, Dennis appeared with the choir, the Serenaders and the Madrigals. Back in 7th Grade, Dennis performed in the small Opera *Noyes Fludde,* where he played one of Noah's sons.

ROBERT HUGHES (Indian) Bob recently graduated from Linton High School, where he appeared in *Grease, You Can't take It With you,* as Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream,* Chekhov in *The Good Doctor* and Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet.* He has worked with a number of choral groups and hopes to continue his singing and acting in the future.

PRODUCTION

MARIA RICCIO BRYCE (Book, Music, Lyrics – Director) Maria, the eldest of four sisters, was born and raised in Amsterdam, New York. During a season of summer stock at the Weston Playhouse in Vermont, she met an Englishman, Alan Bryce and married him upon graduation from Manhattanville College. She lived in London for ten years, during which time she and Alan created and ran their own theatre in Kingston-upon-Thames. The Overground Theatre became one of England's leading 'Fringe' Theatres. Maria and Alan produced over 150 shows there, including several new works by major British playwrights. Many Overground productions went on to success elsewhere: *Sweet Wine of Youth,* a biography of Rupert Brooke, was produced for BBC TV; *Your Place Or Mine* ran throughout Europe and the Far East and *Time* which ran for five years in London's West End starring a hologram of Laurence Olivier. In 1988, Maria wrote *Mother, I'm Here* which was also produced at Proctor's Theatre. She wrote music for *Toyer* starring Kathleen Turner at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC. Her other musicals include *By George,* which she wrote with Royce Ryton (author of *Crown Matrimonial*), an adaptation of Fay Weldon's novel, *Puffball* and *A Time of Your Life* which she wrote with her husband and produced at the Overground Theatre. Her musical revue, *Your Beautiful Women* was recorded for BBC Radio and she has written *Hiroshima,* a full-length work for Orchestra. Since returning to America, Maria has taught English and Drama for one year at the Doane Stuart School, worked as a pianist at ESIPA's Theater Arts School and has directed Allen Mills in three of Proctor's 'Christmas Shows.' She is the mother of three sons, Duncan, Andrew and Peter.

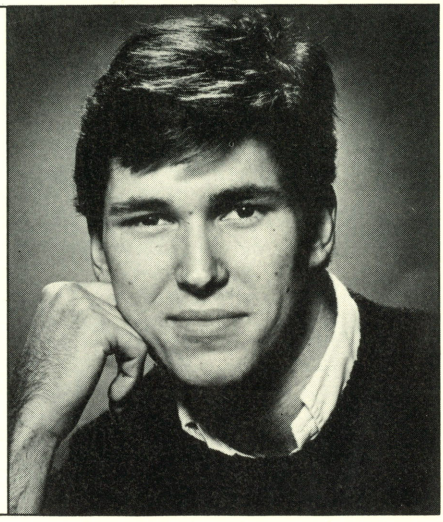
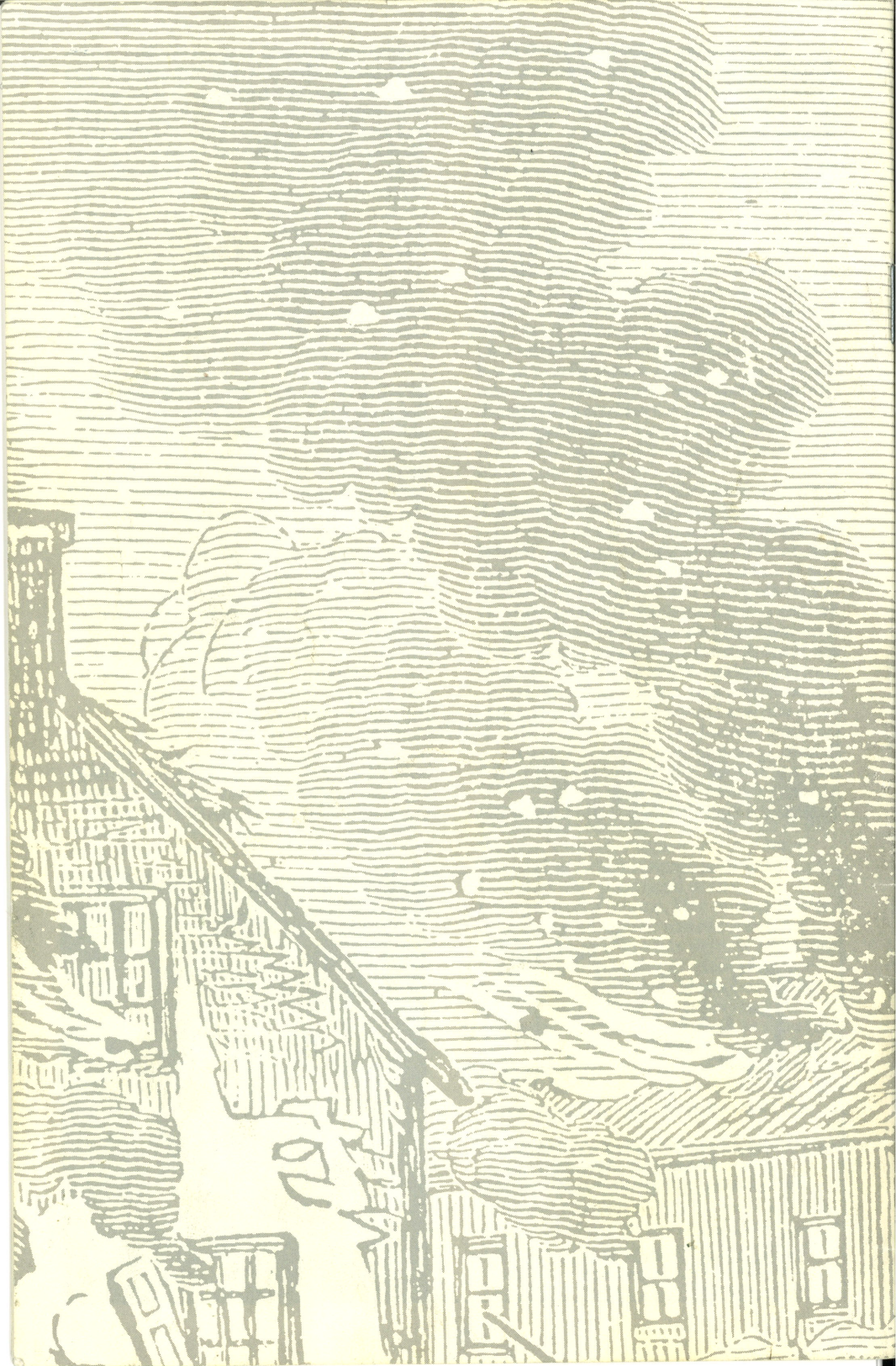
NORMAN COATES (Designer) Norman began his career with four years at London's acclaimed Almost Free Theatre. His first freelance work was for Alan and Maria Bryce at the Overground Theatre, also in London, where he designed *We Can't Pay? We Won't Pay!, Long Day's Journey Into Night* and many

others. He has worked at many of Britain's leading Regional Theatres, including Manchester, Birmingham, The Theatre Royal in Bath, and as head of Design at the Palace Theatre in Watford, where he designed *I've Been Here Before.* He is an Associate Designer of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art; designed *Mr. Cinders,* which ran for two years in the West End; *Saturday Night at the Palace* for the Old Vic and *The Importance of Being Earnest* for the Whitehall Theatre. He has designed for the Market Theatre in Johannesburg and has recently completed *Hapgood* by Tom Stoppard and *Brighton Beach Memoirs* at the Leeds Playhouse. He is also working on a tour of P.G. Wodehouse's long-lost play *Candlelight.* When he returns to England he will design the female *Odd Couple* for the Oxford Theatre Company.

ANGELA HARDCASTLE (Choreographer) Angela was trained at the Rambert School of Ballet and the London School of Contemporary Dance. She is an associate of the Royal Academy of Dancing and is a fellow of the Imperial Society of Teachers and Dancing. For four years Angela was Ballet Mistress to the English National Opera, where she choreographed *Rigoletto, The Mastersingers,* and *A Night in Venice.* For 5 years she was Dance Coordinator for the Guilford School of Acting—which is Britain's pre-eminent Musical Theatre training school. She choreographed the Athens production of *Jesus Christ Superstar, A Doll's House* for the Cambridge Theatre Company, *Jumpers* for the Thorndike Theatre, *The Ballroom* at the Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough, with Alan Ayckbourn as Director. Angela has also choreographed for the Walsh National Opera, Handel Opera, and Sadler's Wells and Opera Forum in Holland. She has choreographed musicals and plays at regional theatres throughout Britain, including *Guys and Dolls, Kiss Me Kate* and *Something's Afoot* for the Royal Theatre, Northampton, *Blood Brothers* at the Theatre Royal, York, *Salad Days, Gilgamesh* and *The Secret Garden* at the Playhouse, Salisbury–and many more.

LYNDA L. SALSBURY (Costume Designer) is Resident Costume Designer at Capital Repertory Company in Albany, where she designed 12 productions, including *Brighton Beach Memoirs, The Big Knife,* and *Private Lives.* Her next project is *The Scandalous Adventures of Sir Toby Trollope.* Regionally, Lynda has designed *Cloud Nine* and *Morocco* for the Berkshire Theatre Festival and *The Scarlet Letter* for the Berkshire Public Theatre. Also on her list is *Mrs. California* for Merrimac Theatre and *Twelfth Night* for Empire Youth Theatre. She has also designed for the Williamstown Theatre Festival, Indiana Repertory theatre and The Goodman Theatre. Lynda's other passion is working with students. She teaches and designs at Skidmore College and has taught at SUNY Albany, Adelphi University and Mt. Holyoke College.

Panache
Hair
Studio

MEN'S - WOMEN'S STYLING
MAKE-UP ARTIST
GOLDWELL • SEBASTIAN PRODUCTS

144 WASHINGTON AVE. • ALBANY, NY 12210
518-434-4431